

Name: _____

Date: _____

Aristotle's Conclusion

Aristotle lived in Greece more than three hundred years before the Common Era (or Before Christ). In those days, most people believed that many gods ruled the universe. A happy god, for instance, might allow an abundant harvest, while an angry god would show his fury with storms or earthquakes. Aristotle decided he could understand the world by observing it and using logic and reason. This is why Aristotle is remembered as the Father of Natural Science.

Most people in Aristotle's time believed the earth was flat, but Aristotle concluded that the earth was round. The Greek thinker realized that a lunar eclipse occurred when the earth came between the sun and the moon. The shape of the earth's shadow, Aristotle observed, was round. If the earth was flat its

shadow would have a much different shape. Next, Aristotle considered the position of the North Star. The further north you journeyed, the closer the North Star seemed to move to the middle of the sky. But if someone were to travel south of what we now call the equator, the North Star could not be seen at all. Finally, Aristotle watched ships sailing into port. He noticed that at a distance, he could see the tops of their sails before he saw the rest of the ship. Aristotle deduced that this was because of the curvature of the earth. We know today that Aristotle's conclusions were correct because humans have traveled around the globe and we have seen pictures of the earth from space.



Fill in the Blanks

Aristotle lived in G_____ about _____ years ago. He decided he could u_____ the world by using l_____ and r_____. Aristotle was convinced the w_____ was r_____. During a lunar e_____, he saw the s_____ of the e_____ was r_____. Further, A_____ saw that the position of the N_____ Star changed. Finally, he observed that when s_____ sailed into p_____, he saw the t_____ of their m_____ before he saw their hulls. Aristotle never saw pictures from s_____, but he used l_____ and r_____ to conclude the earth was round.

Answer in complete sentences

1. How did the ancient Greeks explain natural events?

2. Describe two reasons why Aristotle concluded the earth was round.

*This is a higher order learning question. You must answer the question to the best of your ability, but any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.